

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02374 01 OF 02 300520Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-04 HEW-06 HUD-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OIC-02 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 USIA-15 DLOS-04

SAL-01 COME-00 CG-00 /131 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7253

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS, ENRG

SUBJECT: CCMS: SPRING PLENARY -- PROPOSAL BY FRANCE FOR PILOT

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PAGE 02 NATO 02374 01 OF 02 300520Z

STUDY ON CONTROL OF POLLUTION OF THE SEAS

REFS: A. STATE 81206

B. AC/274-D/62

SUMMARY: CCMS ACCEPTED FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR NEW PILOT STUDY OUTLINED REFDOC WITH US AND GREECE AS COPILOTS, AND WITH INITIAL ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY CANADA, NORWAY, THE NETHERLANDS, TURKEY, AND UK. RELATIONSHIP WAS DRAWN BETWEEN NEW STUDY AND (A) FOLLOW-UP OF BELGIAN-LED COASTAL WATER POLLUTION PILOT STUDY AND (B) NEED TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND TO INTEGRATE ITS WORK WITH ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH PROGRAMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. BELGIUM, FRG, AND ITALY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ASPECTS OF NEW PILOT STUDY AND POSSIBILITY OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AT LATER STAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. FRANCE (FESQUET AND MASSIN) OUTLINED THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSED PILOT STUDY, NAMELY (A) OPERATIONS CONCERNED WITH DETECTION OF WASTE AND OIL SPILLS AT SEA, (B) EVALUATION OF INFLUENCE OF FALLOUT OVER THE SEA OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, AND (C) STUDY ON THE COASTAL DISSEMINATION OF POLLUTION. MASSIN NOTED THAT NEW STUDY AIMED TO SURVEY ALL TECHNIQUES BEING USED IN REMOTE SENSING IN SEAS, OCEANS, AND LAKES, WITH EXCEPTION OF SATELLITES, WHICH, WHILE NOT NEGIGIBLE, WAS TOO FAR-REACHING TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS PROJECT.

2. BELGIUM (RENSON) SAID DELIGHTED TO JOIN IN, BUT HAD TO AWAIT NEW BUDGET IN JULY BEFORE COULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE. CONSIDERED NEW STUDY TO BE FOLLOW-UP OF RECENTLY COMPLETED COASTAL WATER POLLUTION PILOT STUDY IN WHICH OCEAN OIL SPILLS HAD BEEN PRIORITY ELEMENT. ACTION HAD ALREADY BEEN ENCOURAGED IN IMCO AND IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO COMBAT OIL SPILLS. NEW STUDY WOULD ADD REMOTE SENSING TO SUPPORT THOSE EFFORTS. BELGIUM ALSO SUPPORTED STUDY UNDER 1(B) ABOVE WITHIN LIMITS SPECIFIED IN REFDOC AND CONSIDERED THAT STUDY IN 1(C) ABOVE WOULD FILL GAP IN KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE IN PRESENT MATHEMATICAL MODELS.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NATO 02374 01 OF 02 300520Z

3. ITALY (CORTELLESSA) EXPRESSED HIGH INTEREST IN PROPOSED PILOT STUDY IN WHICH ITALY MIGHT TAKE PART IN ONE OR MORE PROJECTS. SUGGESTED ASSOCIATION IN IT OF NON-MEMBER STATES, ESPECIALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN REGION. IN THIS RESPECT, CITED WORK OF UNEP AND BARCELONA CONFERENCE IN CREATION OF OIL COMBAT CENTER ON MALTA. STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF SHARING CCMS STUDY RESULTS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES. TURKEY INDICATED INTEREST AND INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE.

4. NORWAY (LYKKE) CITED GREAT POTENTIAL OF REMOTE SENSING TO MONITOR SEA POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY OIL

SPILLS WHICH IS IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IN TURBULENT NORTH SEA. THESE COULD BE OVERCOME BY MICROWAVE TECHNIQUES AND WHILE AGREEING SATELLITES MIGHT BE EXCLUDED, FAVERED USE OF LAND-BASED RADAR WITH 100-200 KM RANGE. SUGGESTED NEW TECHNIQUES, HOWEVER, MUST BE LINKED WITH OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES. SUGGESTED THAT NORWEGIAN SCIENTISTS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO STUDY UNDER 1(A) ABOVE. WHILE WOULD FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROJECTS UNDER 1(B) AND (C) ABOVE, WOULD NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.

5. NETHERLANDS (VIGEVENO) EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR AND INTEREST IN PROPOSED PILOT STUDY AND STATED DUTCH INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN PROJECTS UNDER 1(B) AND (C) ABOVE WHILE NOT EXCLUDING JOINING IN ON 1(A). CANADA (EDGEWORTH) SAID TWO AREAS OF GREATEST INTEREST WERE PROJECTS UNDER 1(A) AND (C). AS PART OF BEAUFORT SEA OIL DRILLING CANADA INTENDED TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH ON SURFACE OIL AS WELL AS UNDER ICE AND WOULD MAKE DATA AVAILABLE TO PILOT STUDY GROUP. QUINSEY (CANADA) CITED WORK OF CANADA CENTER ON REMOTE SENSING AND USE OF ULTRA-VIOLET NIGHT FLASH TO DETECH AND CLASSIFY OIL SPILLS AT NIGHT FROM AIRBORNE PLATFORM. HE ASKED WHETHER NEW STUDY WOULD ONLY COLLECT DATA OR WOULD CONDUCT FIELD TRIALS, AND WHETHER STUDY WOULD BE INTEGRATED WITH FRENCH-DUTCH TRIALS AT NOORDWIJK.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 NATO 02374 01 OF 02 300520Z

(MASSIN REPLIED THAT FIRST STAGE WOULD INVOLVE INFORMATION EXCHANGE; SECOND ASSESSMENT. HE DID NOT REPLY TO NOORDWIJK QUERY.)

6. FRG (VON MANGER-KOENIG) STRESSED NEED TO AVOID DUPLICATION WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDER OSLO AND PARIS CONVENTIONS, BOTH OF WHICH INVOLVE MONITORING. REQUESTED TO BE KEPT INFORMED AND INDICATED MIGHT WISH TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION AT LATER STAGE. GREECE (COURNOTOS) EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROPOSED PILOT

STUDY AND WISHED TO PARTICIPATE AS CO-PILOT. PORTUGAL (PINTO PEIXOTO) INDICATED READINESS TO SUPPORT FRENCH PROPOSAL AND WOULD FOLLOW ITS PROGRESS WITH INTEREST.

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PAGE 01 NATO 02374 02 OF 02 300519Z

11
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 2374

7. UK (KING) WELCOMED FRENCH INITIATIVE AND
SAID PRINCIPAL UK INTEREST LAY IN PROJECT UNDER 1(A)
ABOVE. UK WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN US COAST GUARD
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PAGE 02 NATO 02374 02 OF 02 300519Z

SYSTEM WHICH MIGHT ASSIST IN DETECTING TANKERS
DISCHARGING OIL INTO SEA AT NIGHT. SUGGESTED TWO-
PHASE ACTIVITY, INITIALLY INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND
STATE-OF-ART REVIEW, THEN ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDA-
TIONS. IF PILOT STUDY THUS ORGANIZED, COULD JOIN
IMMEDIATELY IN ALL THREE ELEMENTS. URGED AVOIDANCE
OF DUPLICATION WITH WORK OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL
BODIES.

8. US (BARNUM) INDICATED PLEASURE AT UNANIMOUS
INTEREST EXPRESSED IN PROPOSED PILOT STUDY. SAID US

HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN REMOTE SENSING FOR SOME TIME AND BOTH US COAST GUARD AND EPA HAVE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN REMOTE SENSING. NOTED US APPROACH EMPHASIZES ALL-WEATHER DAY-NIGHT PERFORMANCE THROUGH COMBINATION OF AIRBORNE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE MICROWAVE, INFRARED, AND VISUAL TECHNIQUES FOR REAL-TIME DETECTION OF POLLUTION DISCHARGE. OUTLINED ELEMENTS IN R AND D ACTIVITY, INCLUDING RADAR, TELEVISION AND CAMERA SYSTEMS WITH AIRBORNE CAPABILITY APPLICABLE TO THIS PROPOSED PROJECT. THEN NOTED THAT EPA HAD EXTENSIVE OPERATIONAL AND R&D ACTIVITIES IN SECOND ELEMENT OF FRENCH PROPOSAL (PARA 1(B) ABOVE), AND GAVE DETAILED RUN-DOWN OF SYSTEMS WITH CAPABILITY OF TRACING AEROSOLS AND OTHER POLLUTANTS. STATED US ENDORSED WORK PROPOSED UNDER THIRD ELEMENT OF FRENCH PROPOSAL (PARA 1(C) ABOVE) TO FILL NEED FOR DETERMINING POTENTIAL OF REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY IN MONITORING MATERIAL INTRODUCED IN MARINE ENVIRONMENT. NOTED ESPECIALLY ACTIVITIES OF NOAA IN NEW YORK BIGHT AND OFF ALASKAN COAST, EPA STUDIES IN GREAT LAKES, AND COAST GUARD DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS TO FORECAST MOVEMENT AND BOUNDARIES OF OIL SPILLS. FINALLY EXPRESSED FULL US SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED PILOT STUDY AND OFFERED TO SERVE AS CO-PILOT.

10. FRANCE (FESQUET) THANKED COMMITTEE FOR UNAMIMOUS POSITIVE REACTION TO FRENCH PROPOSAL, AND EXPRESSED CERTAINTY PILOT STUDY WOULD BE USEFUL TOOL FOR ALLIANCE AND NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES. AGREED WITH NORWAY ON OPERATIONAL FOLLOW-ON
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NATO 02374 02 OF 02 300519Z

AFTER ELABORATION OF TECHNIQUES. NOTED THAT EXPERTS WOULD TAKE DUE ACCOUNT OF WARNINGS ON DUPLICATION AND MANDATES OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON CONTROL OF SEA POLLUTION. SUGGESTED THAT NATO/IS INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES IN STUDIES.

11. BELGIUM (RENNON) EXPRESSED HOPE STUDY WOULD FILL GAPS IN COMPLETED BELGIAN-LED COASTAL WATER POLLUTION PROJECT. NOTED THAT IN SPRING 1977, EXPERTS MEETING ON OIL SPILLS WOULD BE HELD IN LOUISIANA. HE SUGGESTED THAT NEW PILOT STUDY ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE POSSIBLY TIED TO THIS MEETING.

12. FRANCE (MASSIN) WELCOMED US AND GREEK OFFERS TO CO-PILOT STUDY AND AGREED THAT LOUISIANA OIL SPILLS MEETING COULD SERVE AS OCCASION FOR MEETING OF EXPERTS. EXPRESSED DESIRE TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY TOWARDS COMPLETION OF PILOT STUDY.

13. ACTING CHAIRMAN OZDAS NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT

COMMITTEE HAD ACCEPTED PROPOSAL FOR NEW PILOT STUDY
ON CONTROL OF POLLUTION OF THE SEA AND THAT THIS
RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE FORWARDED TO COUNCIL FOR
LATTER'S APPROVAL. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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